National Episcopal Coalition on Alcohol

• a nation-wide network of Episcopal laity and clergy, dioceses and provinces, seminaries, schools, and agencies, with a common commitment to address the problem of alcoholism and other such chemical dependencies—

• emerging from the efforts of diocesan committees and commissions on alcoholism in Province III to take seriously the 1979 General Convention Resolution on Alcoholism—

• formally organized and incorporated in Washington, D.C., in February of 1982 with the mandate to provide a focus for implementing that Resolution—

• by disseminating information and recommendations on policies and procedures, education and training, pro's and con's of critical issues, related to prevention and intervention, treatment and recovery, of persons so afflicted—

• with special care for the spiritual dimension of addiction and for the Church's role and responsibility in attacking this devastating disease.

Who is your neighbor?

• did you know that alcohol is involved in over half of the annual 50,000 highway deaths—

• and that it claims 10,000,000 victims in this country at this moment, including one in ten of the people nearest you—

• and that it is a primary, predictable, progressive, and terminal illness invading and infecting the family and job of every person it claims—

• but that it can be arrested and treated, with a little help from a few friends?

Some suggestions

• from a practical standpoint, prayers are always useful—

• try attending a meeting or two of Alcoholics Anoymous and/or Alanon and/or Alateen, which is where it really happens—

• read up on alcoholism and chemical dependency; AA has lots of good pamphlets, as do other publishers—

• join the local and diocesan efforts to address the disease, or get the effort started—

• find a recovered alcoholic to sponsor you in your pilgrimage—

Some useful information

• local Alcoholics Anoymous phone number—

• name of local physicians knowledgeable about alcoholism and chemical dependency, as well as treatment facilities—

• names of parish and diocesan committees on alcoholism—

Some questions

• is alcohol causing a problem in the life of anyone you know?

• does your diocese have a resolution on the books similar to that of the national church?

• does your parish have a policy regarding serving alcoholic beverages?

• do you know where to find the prayer for addiction in the Prayer Book?

Some concerns

• adequate attention to alcoholism and chemical dependency in the curriculum of our seminaries

• continuing education of our clergy in the various dimensions of addiction

• insurance coverage of church employees for treatment of the disease

• educational programs in our parishes for adult, children, and youth on chemical dependency as a family affair

• development of diocesan and parish policies and procedures regarding the use and abuse of such mood altering substances as alcohol

National Officers

President	J. Russell Horton Bethesda, Maryland
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Communications	Sally Michael Alexandria, Virginia
Advisor	The Rt. Rev. David Richards Coral Gables, Florida

Resolution

Passed by the 1979 General Convention of the Episcopal Church

Whereas, The illness of alcoholism is epidemic in our society and continues to wreak havoc on countless persons, including those close to an alcoholic; and

Whereas, The illness of alcoholism affects not only the physical and emotional components of human health and behavior, but also the spiritual health of the total person; and

Whereas, Alcoholism is a serious and fatal disease if left untreated; it is also a treatable illness, with excellent prognosis for recovery; and

Whereas, Previous General Conventions of the Episcopal Church have deemed the problem of alcoholism to be worthy of the Church's concern and action; and

Whereas, The work of the Committee on Alcoholism of the Diocese of Maryland has shown that the work of the Church can have a significant impact on the problem of alcoholism; be it therefore

Resolved, That the 195th Convention of the Diocese of Maryland memorialize the 1979 General Convention of the Episcopal Church to:

1. Request each Diocese of the Church to form a Committee on Alcoholism, working under the guidance of the Bishop and including in its membership representatives from the clergy and laity, and if possible, both recovering alcoholics and non-alcoholics. Each Diocesan Committee hopefully, would work in conjunction with local and regional health resources, councils on alcoholism and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous to provide materials for education and training on the subject of alcoholism and alcohol abuse and its effect on the quality of life of human beings. Each Diocese is requested through its Committee on Alcoholism, to develop a written policy on alcoholism including guidelines which:

a. address the issues of education, prevention, intervention and treatment.

b. provide a written procedure for treatment of clergy and Diocesan employees and members of their families who suffer from the illness of alcoholism.

c. include in its policy a statement covering the use of alcoholic beverages at church functions and or on church property, with particular emphasis on the provision of non-alcoholic choices.

d. provide an employees policy statement which includes assurances of job security and insurance coverage for those completing a prescribed course of alcoholic treatment.

2. Instruct the Executive Council of the General Convention also to comply with Provisions 1, b, c, and d, as they relate to all employees of the Executive Council of the General Convention.

Enclosed is my contribution to
National Episcopal Coalition on Alcohol
_____$10 _____$25 _____$100 _____$150

Name_____

Address_____

_____

Diocese_____

Mail to:
National Episcopal
Coalition on Alcohol
P.O. Box 50489
Washington, D.C. 20004

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